



emitting a light pulse;  
 receiving a reflection of said light pulse;  
 indicating a presence of the object from said received light pulse; and,  
 increasing sensitivity of said indicating step when said received light pulse is  
 received at an elapsed time from said emission that is greater than a  
 predetermined time.

[c8] 8.The method of claim 7 wherein said emitting step includes:  
 transmitting said light pulse to a polymeric light reflector; and,  
 reflecting said light pulse outwardly from said light reflector.

[c9] 9.A method for detecting an object, comprising:  
 emitting a light pulse;  
 receiving a reflection of said light pulse;  
 indicating a presence of the object from said received light pulse; and,  
 decreasing sensitivity of said indicating step when said received light pulse is  
 received at an elapsed time from said emission that is less than a  
 predetermined time.

[c10] 10.The method of claim 9 wherein said emitting step includes:  
 transmitting said light pulse to a polymeric light reflector; and,  
 reflecting said light pulse outwardly from said light reflector.

[c11] 11.A method for detecting an object, comprising:  
 emitting a plurality of light pulses;  
 receiving a reflection of said light pulses;  
 indicating a presence of the object from said received light pulses; and,  
 adjusting sensitivity of said indicating step based on a travel time of said  
 pulses.

[c12] 12.The method of claim 11 wherein said emitting step includes:  
 transmitting said plurality of light pulses to a polymeric light reflector; and,  
 reflecting said light pulses outwardly from said light reflector.

[c13] 13.A system for detecting an object, comprising:  
 a light source generating a light pulse, said light pulse being emitted;

a light detector configured to receive a reflection of said pulse; and,  
a controller operably connected to said light source and said detector, said controller configured to indicate a presence of the object from said received light pulse, said controller further configured to adjust sensitivity for detecting the object based on an elapsed time from said emission.

- [c14] 14.The system of claim 13 further comprising a polymeric light reflector receiving said light pulse from said light source and reflecting said light pulse toward the object.
- [c15] 15.The system of claim 13 wherein said light source comprises a near infrared diode laser.
- [c16] 16. The system of claim 13 wherein said light detector comprises a near infrared light detector.
- [c17] 17.The system of claim 13 wherein said sensitivity is adjusted to have a first sensitivity value at a first elapsed time and a second sensitivity value at a second elapsed time after said first elapsed time, said second sensitivity being greater than said first sensitivity.
- [c18] 18.An article of manufacture, comprising:  
a computer storage medium having a computer program encoded therein for detecting an object, said computer storage medium comprising:  
code for inducing a light transmitter to emit a light pulse;  
code for storing values indicative of a reflection of said light pulse; and,  
code for indicating a presence of the object from said stored values; and,  
code for adjusting sensitivity for detecting the object based on elapsed time from said emission.